

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A tamper-evident device comprising:
 a sleeve member which comprises a first portion which prior to initial opening is
 associated with a second portion by a frangible portion therebetween,
 means for securing the first portion to a mouth and neck portion of a container, and
 a container closure member with which the second portion is associated,
10 wherein prior to an initial container opening operation a circumferential edge of the
 first portion is disposed longitudinally between a circumferential edge of the second portion
 and a circumferential lip of the container closure member, and wherein further
 an initial container opening operation causes the frangible portion to fracture or
 break, and upon reclosure of the container the circumferential lip of the container closure
15 member is disposed longitudinally between the circumferential edge of the first portion and
 the circumferential edge of the second portion such that the circumferential edges are then
 disposed in a spaced apart relationship to one another.
2. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device
20 comprises non-refillable means.
3. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing means
 comprises a further sleeve member adapted to lie around the mouth and neck portion of the
 container.
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4. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the securing means
 also comprises an annular lip provided at an open end of the second portion distal from the
 mouth of the container.
- 30 5. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first portion is
 disposed circumferentially outwardly of the further sleeve member and is a substantially
 tight fit therewith but rotatable with respect thereto upon application of sufficient force, and
 wherein, in use, the first portion remains on the further sleeve member when the container
 closure member is removed.

6. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the further sleeve member includes means for fixing the further sleeve member to the container, the fixing means comprising first means for fixing the further sleeve member on the container so as to restrain rotational movement of the further sleeve with respect to the neck portion of the container, and the fixing means comprises second means for fixing the further sleeve member on the container so as to restrict longitudinal movement of the further sleeve member with respect to the mouth of the container.

7. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second portion is disposed circumferentially outwardly of the container closure member and is substantially tight fit therewith but rotatable with respect thereto upon application of sufficient force.

8. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frangible portion is provided between the initially adjacent circumferential edges of the first and second portions.

9. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein either or both of the circumferential edges retracts or recoils away from the other during an initial container opening operation when the frangible portion fractures or breaks.

10. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the retraction or recoil is accompanied by a concomitant circumferential contraction of at least one of the circumferential edges inwardly of the respective first or second portion to provide at least one circumferential edge having a smaller circumference or diameter than an adjacent portion of the respective first or second portion.

11. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the retraction or recoil results in a permanent deformation of the first and/or second portions, and when the container is reclosed the circumferential edges do not abut together thus revealing a void or gap located between the first and second portions such visual indicator evidencing that the tamper-evident device has been opened.

12. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the container closure member includes a circumferential groove, the circumferential lip located below and adjacent to the circumferential groove.

5 13. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 12, wherein during an initial container opening operation the circumferential edge of the second portion recoils/retracts and circumferentially contracts into the circumferential groove to become positioned circumferentially behind the circumferential lip.

10 14. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein prior to initial opening the frangible portion is located in a further circumferential groove provided between or adjacent the first and second portions of the sleeve member.

15 15. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the frangible portion is located substantially at an apex or base of the further circumferential groove.

20 16. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frangible portion is selected from one of or a combination of: a continuous weakened portion, a circumferential scored line, or a plurality of intermittent shearable links which join the first portion to the second portion.

25 17. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the circumferential edge of the first portion provides a circumferential first beaded portion on the first portion and the circumferential edge of the second portion provides a circumferential second beaded portion on the second portion.

18. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sleeve member substantially comprises a metal or metallic based material.

30 19. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the metal or metallic based material substantially comprises aluminum.

20. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the container closure member is a cap including a threaded portion allowing a rotational movement of the cap during a container opening operation.

21. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tamper-evident device includes a pouring outlet device adapted to be secured to the mouth or neck portion of the container, the container being a container for liquid, and wherein the container closure member is a cap adapted to close an outlet of the pouring outlet device, and wherein the sleeve member is adapted to receive at least part of the pouring outlet device.

22. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the second portion of the sleeve member is adapted to receive at least part of the cap.

23. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the cap is received in a tight interference fit to the second portion but is rotatable with respect to the second portion of the sleeve member upon application of sufficient force.

24. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising non-refillable means, wherein the pouring outlet device circumferentially contains the non-refillable means, and the device comprises a one piece closure assembly for a container for liquid.

25. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the pouring outlet device comprises a pouring lip integrally formed with the further sleeve member, and further comprises a valve seat body which is at least partially receivable within at least part of the neck portion of the container, the valve seat body being at least partially surrounded by the further sleeve member.

26. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the container closure includes a circumferential groove and the further circumferential groove of the sleeve member is located within the circumferential groove of the container closure member prior to initial opening.

27. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 26 when dependent upon claim 21, wherein the tamper-evident device includes a pouring outlet device adapted to be secured to the mouth or neck portion of the container, the container being a container for liquid, and wherein the container closure member is a cap adapted to close an outlet of the pouring outlet device, and wherein the sleeve member is adapted to receive at least part of the pouring outlet device, and wherein, in use, the container is initially opened by twisting the container closure member and the circumferential edge of the second portion of the sleeve member remains within the groove provided on the container closure member, and the circumferential edge of the first portion of the sleeve member progressively moves out of the groove provided on the container closure member as the container closure member is removed away from the pouring outlet device and the first portion, and on removing contact between the container closure member and the first portion of the sleeve member, the circumferential edge of the first portion retracts to cause a contraction of circumference thereof such that the resulting circumference is less than that of a portion of the container closure member which is located below the groove thereon.

28. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the portion of the container closure member is the circumferential lip of the container closure member.

29. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 27, wherein when the container closure member is re-applied to the pouring outlet device, a stop position is reached when the circumferential lip of the container closure member rests or sits upon the circumferential edge of the first portion of the sleeve member, thus preventing the container closure member being returned to its original position, and such that a gap or void remains between the first and second portions of the sleeve member thus exposing a circumferential portion of the container closure member which comprises the circumferential lip which was originally enclosed within the first portion of the sleeve member.

30. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 29, wherein a further gap exists between the circumferential lip of the container closure member and a container closure member seating surface on the pouring outlet device.

31. A tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the exposed circumferential portion of the container closure member is distinctly colored and/or printed with information such as promotional messages.

5 32. A container including a tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1.

33. A container as claimed in claim 32, wherein the container is a bottle.

34. A container as claimed in claim 33, wherein the container is a glass bottle
10 for containment of an alcoholic drink.

35. A combination of a container and a tamper-evident device according to claim 1.

15 36. An alcoholic drinks product comprising an alcoholic substance packaged in the combination of claim 35.

37. A method of manufacturing a tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

- 20 (a) providing a sleeve member;
- (b) providing a pouring outlet device comprising a further sleeve member adapted to be secured to a mouth or neck portion of a container for liquid, and a container closure member releasably securable to the further sleeve member;
- (c) disposing the pouring outlet device at least partly within the sleeve member;
- 25 and
- (d) forming a substantially circumferential frangible portion around the sleeve member.

38. A method of manufacturing a tamper-evident device as claimed in claim 37,
30 wherein the method includes the further step of securing the sleeve member and pouring outlet device one to the other by forming a lip on an open end of the sleeve member so as to entrap the pouring outlet device within the sleeve member.

39. A tamper-evident device comprising:

a sleeve member which comprises a first portion having a circumferential edge and a second portion also having a circumferential edge, wherein prior to initial opening the first and second portions are associated by a frangible portion therebetween and the

5 respective circumferential edges are closely adjacent one another,

means for securing the first portion to a mouth and neck portion of a container,

a container closure member with which the second portion is associated,

means for spacing the initially adjacent circumferential edges upon reclosure subsequent to initial opening, and wherein, in use, an initial container opening operation
10 causes the frangible portion to fracture or break and when the container is reclosed the circumferential edges of the first and second portions are located in a spaced apart relationship to one another by the spacing means.

40. A tamper-evident device comprising:

15 a sleeve member comprising a first portion and a second portion,

means for securing the first portion to a mouth and neck portion of a container, and

a container closure member with which the second portion is associated,

wherein prior to an initial container opening operation a circumferential edge of the first portion is disposed longitudinally between a circumferential edge of the second portion
20 and a circumferential lip of the container closure member,

and wherein further subsequent to an initial container opening operation upon reclosure of the container the circumferential lip of the container closure member is disposed longitudinally between the circumferential edge of the first portion and the circumferential edge of the second portion.

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41. A tamper-evident device comprising:

a sleeve member which comprises a first portion having a circumferential edge and a second portion also having a circumferential edge, wherein prior to initial opening the respective circumferential edges are closely adjacent one another,

30 means for securing the first portion to a mouth and neck portion of a container,

a container closure member with which the second portion is associated,

means for spacing the initially adjacent circumferential edges upon reclosure subsequent to initial opening, and wherein, in use, subsequent to an initial container opening operation when the container is reclosed, the circumferential edges of the first and

second portions are located in spaced apart relationship to one another by the spacing means.

42. A tamper-evident device comprising a first sleeve member which comprises
5 a first portion associated with a second portion by means of a frangible portion
therebetween, wherein said first portion is adapted to be applied to a mouth and neck
portion of a container, said second portion is associated with a container closure member,
and wherein an initial container opening operation causes a frangible portion to fracture or
break such that when the container is reclosed said first and second portions are located in a
10 spaced apart relationship to one another.